

Nebraska SECC Meeting
Thursday, March 12,
2015 1:00 PM
NET, Lincoln, Nebraska

1. Welcome & Review of Agenda – Rod Ziegler

Member Name	Organization	Representing
Al Krause	Nebraska Educational Telecommunications	State Primary
Alisia LaMay	Nebraska Emergency Management Agency	NEMA
Jim Skinner	KPTM/KXVO	Broadcast Television
Jim Timm	Nebraska Broadcast Association	Cable
Paul Johnson	Douglas County Emergency Management	Local EM
Rod Zeigler, Chair	Rural Radio Network / KRVN	Broadcast Radio

Committee Members Absent: Lt. Carla Schreiber, Brian Smith, LeeAnn Quist, Ray Richards
Other Attendees: Janell Walther, Public Policy Center; Joseph Young, Cox Communications;
Troy Harris, NEMA

Common Acronyms	
CAP	Common Alerting Protocol
EAN	Emergency Alert Notification
EAS	Emergency Alert System
FCC	Federal Communications Commission
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FIPS	Federal Information Processing Standard
IPAWS	Integrated Public Alert & Warning System
LECC	Local Emergency Communications Committee
NEMA	Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
NOAA	National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
NWS	National Weather Service
SECC	State Emergency Communications Committee
SP/SR	State Primary / State Relay Network
WEA	Wireless Emergency Alerts

1. Welcome & Call to Order – Rod Ziegler

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 PM.

2. Approval of December 2014 Minutes –Rod Ziegler

Jim Timm made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Al Krause seconded the motion; the motion passed by consensus.

3. Approval of SECC Policy Changes

Jim Skinner made a motion to approve the SECC Policies as presented. Alisia LaMay seconded the motion; the motioned passed by consensus.

4. Approval of State EAS Plan

The EAS plan revisions was discussed. With the expected approval of IPAWS as a monitoring assignment, we can remove any references to the daisy chain set up for the secondary EAN. Monitoring assignments will be kept online at NE-EAS.org, so we can update the assignments, without requiring a full update of the EAS Plan. *(See notes under "New Business.")*

There was discussion about the recommended and required alerts. The previous plan had no recommended alerts. LECCs often include event codes that they recommend. Jim Skinner suggested that the recommended alerts should be in the standard operating procedures rather than the state plan. Required alerts will include EAN, RMT, and RWT. Regarding the COG application, Alisia looks to ensure that certificates are there, there is a plan, and includes a breakdown of who is responsible. There is some interest in increasing the number of COGs, but that is not planned at this time. The FCC is undergoing some structural changes that might change.

Jim Skinner made a motion that we remove the recommended weather and non-weather alerts from the EAS Plan, adding them to the Standard Operating Procedures. The EAS plan will instead include a web link to the recommended alerts in the standard operating procedures on the SECC website. Paul Johnson seconded the motion; the motion passed by consensus.

Alisia LaMay made a motion to approve the State EAS Plan with the addition of:

1. Inserting the approval date to the cover
2. Inserting the point of contact on the cover page: NEMA State Communications Coordinator, Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, Address, NEMA Phone, ne-eas.org website
3. Removing the recommended weather and non-weather alerts from the EAS Plan
4. Fixing two typos on page 5 (interruption and delay)

Al Krause seconded the motion; the motion passed by consensus. Janell Walther will make the changes and send to the SECC.

After the EAS Plan is approved, a committee needs to be formed to work on the standard operating procedures, which does not need FCC approval. Alisia LaMay, Troy Harris, Rod Ziegler, and Jim Timm will work on the SOPs together.

The Nebraska State Broadcasters Association will disseminate the plan once approved by the FCC. Once the Standard Operating Procedures are complete, Rod will contact the FCC to update our EAS Plan status from "unsubmitted" to "pending."

5. Discussion of Old Business

No old business to report.

6. Discussion of New Business

a. Conference Report: Jim Timm & Rod Ziegler

Jim and Rod attended a meeting at National Broadcasters Conference and heard from several agencies including AMBER Alerting, FEMA, National Weather Services, FCC, National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, and Georgia Tech. Jim Timm reported what he learned. All state plans submitted in the last few years, are currently not being examined. Inspectors are working with individual stations, not the SECC teams in each state. There is a new organization of PEP stations: National Organization of Emergency Broadcasters; they are a legal corporation in DC. At the conference, Antoine Johnson said that CAP can carry EAS to pass the audio. Rod proposed putting in IPAWS in as the secondary source for EAN in the Nebraska EAS Plan, rather than the previously proposed daisy chain since IPAWS can carry EAS according to the IPAWS representatives. This means that Nebraska may use the National Weather Service as a secondary required monitoring assignment since IPAWS can carry EAN. There was a question about multilingual EAS at the conference, so that is a growing concern the required languages could include the language of any tourist or transient populations in your area. It is necessary to have alerts in multiple languages to reach various audiences, but broadcast requirements must be carefully considered.

b. SECC Website – Janell Walther & Rod Ziegler

Jim Skinner owns the NE-EAS.org website currently, and it is managed and maintained by the Public Policy Center. Many times the EAS Plan is presented on a state website and link to the NE-EAS.org. The NE-EAS.org site is a stand-alone site. A lot of other state broadcast associates do handle these websites. Right now, by having it on a publicly access website we are meeting the requirements of making the details available to the public via the public website. There is no sensitive information on this site. Jim Timm will ask if the Nebraska Broadcast Association is willing to own the website and report back.

c. Cable – Rod Ziegler

There is a cable vacancy without regular attendance from a representative from the cable entity. Joseph Young, Cox, will ask to see if he should be the official cable rep member to represent cable interests. Not all cable systems technically can do the same thing.

Paul Johnson made a motion to declare the position open. Al Krause seconded the motion; the motion passed by consensus. Rod will reach out to LeeAnn Quist to she is interested in the position still or if we should ask an alternative representative.

d. CAP – Paul Johnson

Paul Johnson will bring a speaker to the next meeting to discuss CAP plans. CAP is international.

e. Firewall – Jim Timm

There have been some incidents of radio stations hacked from overseas. Some operators on slim budgets may be vulnerable to similar hacks. Jim T. would like to author a request to get some firewalls (rather than the ENDEC units) to protect members than need to be protected so they can send out alerts in a time of crisis. Troy will look into this. It can be less expensive, but we may need to hire a contractor to install it and upgrade security rather than just installing a box. Jim Timm will speak with his IT personnel to get a range for installation, time for installation, etc. We could put the firewall only in front of the box, not the whole station.

f. NPT Test – Rod Ziegler

Rod Ziegler was asked by Al Kenyan if Nebraska would like to be a test state for a National Periodic Test (NPT) test. This test will affect every cable and broadcaster in the state. It's never been used before, but they thought about using in place of EAS. The SECC is interested in being a test site. They are also looking at a "Red Envelope" for NVBS with authentication codes. Right now you can't run an RMT through IPAWS with special permission.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be tentatively scheduled for Thursday, June 25, 2015 at 1 PM in Omaha at the Douglas County EOC.

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:08 PM.